

**Discover Forgiveness**  
**Pastor Scott Borden**  
**February 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

<sup>26</sup> And “don’t sin by letting anger control you.”<sup>[a]</sup> Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry, <sup>27</sup> for anger gives a foothold to the devil.

**Ephesians 4:26-27 (New Living Translation)**

I. Jesus came to reverse the Law of Lamech

<sup>23</sup> One day Lamech said to his wives, “Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; listen to me, you wives of Lamech. I have killed a man who attacked me, a young man who wounded me. <sup>24</sup> If someone who kills Cain is punished seven times, then the one who kills me will be punished seventy-seven times!”

**Genesis 4:23-24 (NLT)**

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone<sup>[a]</sup> who sins against me? Seven times?”

**Matthew 18:21 (NLT)**

**II. What forgiveness is not...**

- 1. Forgiveness is not excusing.**
- 2. Forgiveness is not forceful.**
- 3. Forgiveness is not reconciling.**

**III. What is forgiveness?**

- 1. Forgiveness is a decision.**
- 2. Forgiveness is offering the grace I’ve received to someone else.**

<sup>28</sup> “But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment. <sup>29</sup> “His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it,’ he pleaded. <sup>30</sup> But his creditor wouldn’t wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full.

<sup>31</sup> “When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened.<sup>32</sup> Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup> Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup> Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt.

**Matthew 18:31-34 (NLT)**

**IV. How do we forgive?**

- 1. Humbly admit I need power outside of myself.**
- 2. Find biblical ways to avoid or reduce the feeling of unforgiveness.**
- 3. Ascend the pyramid of forgiveness**
  - a. Recall the hurt**
  - b. Empathize with the one who hurt you.**
  - c. Offer the altruistic gift of forgiveness**
  - d. Commit publicly to forgive**
  - e. Hold onto forgiveness**
- 4. Understand that true forgiveness takes time, effort and lots of grace.**